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GLEN PARK NEWS

MARCH, 1985 G.P.A. P. O. Box 31292 S.F. 94131

OPEN LETTER TO THE NEWS

A fourteen year resident of Glen Park, I finally attended my second G.P.A. meeting. Admittedly, I am ashamed of the apathy evidenced by this fact. Since I moved into the neighborhood I have often said "I should become involved," but have never made the time.

There were six others at the February meeting of the G.P.A.. This smallness and unavoidable intimacy created a very open forum for discussion and voicing of opinions.

This opportunity was one of the positive aspects of the meeting and the organization. What I found surprising was the weight carried by these opinions. Each participant has an equal voice.

Readers should try to remember the time before the citywide formation of neighborhood groups. This was a period when individual San Franciscans had little power to get action on even the most hazardous situations, let alone effect real estate development or any other moneyed or political issues in their neighborhoods.

Then with the growth of neighborhood associations came decision making power, where because of the numbers of people combined in neighborhood coalitions residents could effect their immediate environments. This locus of power still resides with the neighborhood associations.

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MERCHANTS RENEW ACTIVITY

After a period of little activity, the Glen Park Merchants Association has come alive again with the capable encouragement of Tiffany Farr (Tiffany's Wines & Spirits). Their first meeting, attended by a majority of the merchants in our neighborhood was very successful. Expectations are that the merchants will continue that success in the future. We wish them well and look forward to working with them toward our common goal of improving Glen Park. The Merchants Association meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Diamond Pizza. Anyone who wants further information on the Association should contact Tiffany at 587-2649.

BRIGHT SPOT IN GLEN PARK

Congratulations are in order to Sam and Josephine Cohn, owners of the victorian at Diamond and Chenery which houses Glen Park Cleaners. The new paint job they commissioned for their building is a great addition to the neighborhood and shows a respect for property that we like to see. Thank you, Sam and Josephine, for your investment in the area and for your good taste.

ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

The Glen Park Association had its Annual General Meeting in January as set forth in its by-laws. This meeting was for the purpose of delivering committee reports and electing officers and establishing committee membership for the coming year. The new officers and committee chairs for 1985 is listed below. Should you need to contact any of these people, we have included phone numbers for your convenience. Hold on to this sheet for future use. Please note that some of the positions are not filled. Any help we can get along the lines of the blank spaces would be appreciated.

President: Bruce Bonacker (h) 334-5463
(w) 398-8824
V.P.: Tiffany Farr 333-1892
Corresponding Secretary (vacant position)
Mem. Secty: Audrey Parvin. . .587-1945
Recording Secty: (vacant position)
Tresurer: Nelson Combs 334-5059
Coalition of S.F. Neighborhoods:
Ruth Gravanis 585-5304
Neighborhood Improvement:
Lenda Barth 647-4846
Zoning & Planning:
Bruce Bonacker. . . . . .(h)334-5463
(w)398-8824
Publication:
Carol Shatzberg 239-4553
Rec & Park: (vacant position)
Scouting (BSA):
Leo Olson 333-7666
Traffic & Parking:
Katie Flynn 586-0330
Transportation & Utilities:
(vacant position)
Citizen Safety:
Marcia De Hart 586-1735
Fundraising: (vacant position)
Health and Education (vacant position)
Program (vacant position)

The GPA extends a hearty Thankyou to Diamond Supermarket for its generous donation to the association. This contribution shows a strong concern for Glen Park and the GPA's efforts toward improvement.

SAN JOSE AVE. LANDSCAPE PROJECT

The San Jose Avenue Slope Protection Project is finally underway! After much study and planning, the clean-up and renovation of the "Bernal Cut" has begun.

The stretch of San Jose Avenue expressway which runs from the BART station to Randall Street is known as the Bernal Cut. Over the years, the Bernal Cut has been the target of complaints from Glen Park residents because of its badly neglected condition. Weeds, garbage, rats, erosion --the Bernal Cut is a mess.

Because of steep slopes and difficult access, renovation of this area is particularly difficult. The project was delayed until a thorough study of these conditions and more informed recommendations could be made.

This January, the plans for the slope protection project were presented to the G.P.A.. Bonnie Ng, Assistant Landscape Architect, and Mel Aker, Landscape Supervisor of the D.P.W., explained the problems and the proposed solutions to G.P.A. representatives.

Ms. Ng explained some of the functional design criteria: The slopes needed to be stabilized and reconstructed, irrigation systems needed to be installed, and erosion controlling plants needed to be selected. Also, due to the difficult accessibility of the area, low maintenance plants were necessary.

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GLEN PARK NEWS HOME DELIVERY

Would you like to have the Glen Park News mailed directly to your home and in the process, assist your neighborhood association in its efforts to improve Glen Park? If so, you can easily become a Glen Park Association member by filling out the application below and sending it and your membership dues to the address below. We thank you for your help.

GLEN PARK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Glen Park Association is a neighborhood-serving organization entirely dependent on the participation of volunteers and the contributions of supporters. Minimum dues are $5.00 per person, with larger contributions welcome.

Mail your application and check to: Glen Park Association
P O Box 31292
San Francisco, CA 94131

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP _____ NEW MEMBERSHIP _____

What areas of interest, and, or concern do you have about Glen Park?

_____

_____

Would you be interested in serving on a committee in the Glen Park Association?

Which committee?

_____

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STREET REPAIR PROBLEMS CONTINUE

Several streets in the Glen Park Neighborhood are showing the effects of the winter rains with increased cracking, slumping and settling. If you know of any such streets in need of repair, call Katie Flynn, 586-0330, and she will pass the report on to DPW. Also, a tar-pot truck spilled tar on several of the steep streets making them extremely slick in the rain. DPW has promised to take a regrading machine to these streets, removing or roughing up the tar. If you know of streets with tar spills or see the spills happen, please call Katie. DPW promises action but cannot act without your input.

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TRAFFIC SIGN PROGRESS

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has put yellow "Caution Curve" signs with a 20 m.p.h. advisory speed limit on Chenery Street between Castro and Roanoke streets. This is as far as DPW intends to go in slowing down traffic on Chenery Street, unless the neighborhood can produce compelling evidence that further steps are necessary. Thank you to those who called traffic committee head Katie Flynn with comments. Your support enabled us to motivate the DPW. What we need now is your reaction to the signs: Are they working? Has traffic been slowed down on Chenery Street? Have there been any more accidents or near accidents, etc.? Please call in comments or suggestions to Katie Flynn, 586-0330.

PRUNE TREES NOW

February and early March are good months to prune your trees (except flowering trees, which should be pruned after they flower). Small to medium-sized trees are quite easy to prune. A few inexpensive or borrowed tools will do the job. Very large trees may need professional services.

If you are pruning, don't get carried away. Just cut off the lower branches so pedestrians can pass without interference and trucks will not bash into them (always make such cuts flush with the trunk). To shape or to thin out so wind damage does not occur, prune off some smaller branches from the main branches, starting at the lowest branch nearest the trunk and working up and out. If you have a drooping-type tree, snip off branches at tips where they hang too low.

Whenever you prune, consider the natural character of the tree. Try to cut off only that which is necessary to meet the standards of the law and the demands of the weather.

Neighbors, please help one another! If you have tools and/or know how to prune, perhaps you can offer assistance to a neighbor who may be hesitant to prune or doesn't have the proper tools.

Healthy, good-looking trees lining our streets can add much to our living environment. Proper care while our trees are young will allow them to grow and develop well.

PART-TIME CLERICAL POSITION - 6 to 12 hours per week, flex schedule in small Glen Park home-office. Typing, data entry, telephone answering and filing. Prefer experienced adult with good English and accurate office skills. Opportunity to learn use of computer. Salary $5.50/hour to start. Call 337-8330.

LOCAL HOSPITAL SERVICES

St. Luke's Hospital has been an important source of health care services to many residents of Glen Park for many years. Currently, it is making a special effort to reach more of the area's residents.

Many should have by this time received a personalized St. Luke's Hospital CareCard in the mail. Use of this card can provide free health tests, educational services, discounts on emergency room services and lower cost meals for senior citizens.

Highlights of the services available through the use of the CareCard are:

* A free physical evaluation by a member of the St. Luke's Hospital Medical Staff. These free physical evaluations are offered on Tuesday and Thursday, from 5 to 7 pm and on Saturdays from 9 to 11 am. To schedule this free exam for you and/or family members, simply call 641-6670, Monday-Friday, 1 to 9 pm.

* Free health screening services for lung function, diabetes, high blood pressure, pregnancy, and glaucoma. To find out when these services are scheduled, call 641-6670.

* A 20 percent meal discount in the hospital cafeteria for senior citizens for breakfast and dinner meals (except for breakfast on weekends and holidays).

* An emergency room charge of just $25 for CareCard holders who meet their own St. Luke's Medical Staff member physician at the emergency room for treatment, instead of using one of the emergency room doctors.

* A variety of health education programs on childbirth, diabetes and cardiopulmonary resuscitation are offered free to CareCard holders. Call 641-6605 for information.

CHENERY ST. DEVELOPMENT

The G.P.A. Planning and Zoning Committee has been reviewing a development proposal for the empty property on Chenery Street across from the Glen Park Library. As of this writing the proposal which appears to be fully compliant with the planning code includes four levels (one below grade for parking, one commercial basically at sidewalk level and two residential stories above). Provided are parking for 10 cars, 3900 S.F. of commercial space for up to 3 or 4 tenants and 6 residential units with 2 or 3 bedrooms.

The developer, Anthony Barrett, has not decided whether the building will be rented out or condominiumized. Our committee is working with the developer in an effort to see that the project is a positive contribution to the neighborhood and the commercial district. The committee will be bringing the proposal before the March G.P.A. meeting with recommendations for the developer and the City Planning staff in review of the project. Anyone interested in seeing the proposal should contact Bruce Bonacker at 398-8824.

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hospital services cont.

Glen Park residents who would like a CareCard packet should call Debbie Fodor, 641-6658, Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4 pm. She'll be happy to send you one.

On April 17 and 20, St. Luke's will be holding a community health fair, offering a variety of free health screening services. Additional details about this service are available from Florence Raskin, St. Luke's Hospital staff member, by calling 641-6659.

San Jose Ave. cont.

Aesthetic criteria were not overlooked. The stark concrete walls will be softened with a draping ground-cover. Small magenta and white flowering trees will be grouped throughout the area, interspersed with flowering shrubs. Larger trees will be planted to provide buffer zones and pollution catchers for residents along the Bernal Cut.

Furthermore, the renovation and landscaping will spill over to include all neglected city-owned property in this area. Walkways bordering the Bernal Cut and pedestrian access points will be cleaned-up and repaired, and, where possible, open space will be developed for use by residents.

The San Jose Avenue Slope Protection Project was recently submitted to City Hall for approval.

AIRPLANE NOISE PROBLEMS

Many Glen Park residents have noticed the recent increase in air traffic over our community. The house-shaking, conversation-stopping roar of jet plane engines is especially annoying during peak air travel hours of the mornings and afternoons. A once relaxing Sunday Morning in Glen Park has become a time of frustration. Complaints can and should be registered with the Airport Noise Abatement Center. Call Mr. Arnold Feener at 876-7816 to express your concern that planes should not be routed over Glen Park.

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Letter to News cont.

Consider the real impact of this power. These groups can negotiate from this "power base" to maintain the architectural integrity of their neighborhoods. They can fight for zoning changes or the status quo, depending on their interests. They can increase the safety of neighborhood streets by getting increased traffic control like stop signs. In our neighborhood the G.P.A. stopped uninhibited commercial development a few years ago.

The people who attended the G.P.A. February meeting are concerned residents of this neighborhood. Certainly, their opinions and the decisions made by the organization based on these opinions are important. But their opinions are not more important than yours or mine. And even more significant, these opinions may not agree with yours and mine.

The active members of our neighborhood association cannot read our minds. These truly concerned individuals don't want to make decisions which may disagree with ours based on their own few opinions. They don't want to abuse their "power base" as neighborhood representatives. But what option do we, the apathetic residents, leave them?

The meeting was an "eye-opener" for me. The small number of participants was shocking considering the impact of the issues discussed. The possibilities of abuse are enormous. At present the active membership seems to share my interests, but without my active participation what will guarantee that the association will continue to represent me? Given my own, and your, apathy--what is to stop our neighborhood organization from the types of abuse found eventually in all groups? How far are the neighborhood associations from the distorted representation practiced by some labor unions? As we overfill our lives and do not leave time for one evening a month to protect our neighborhood from over development and other environmental hazards--how do we justify it?

Roberta Caravelli

THE GREENING OF ARLINGTON

If the trees which grace the east side of Arlington Street below Roanoke have piqued your interest, you can thank the homeowners across the street who planted them a while back. Those trees have had a tough time though. In its efforts to control weeds, the S.F.F.D. performed a "controlled burn" along the bank and some of the trees were lost and the rest were scorched. The Park and Recreation Department is now making up for past errors though and will be supplementing the neighbors efforts with a re-landscaping of the hillside including some more cypress, and other species of trees along with new ground over. Through the continuing efforts of our neighbors, this project has been approved by the Board of Supervisors and work should begin in late spring. Watch for it.

GPA BOARD MEETING DATES

Correction re: March meeting inlast issue:
Tuesday, March 12, 7:30P.M.

Tuesday, April 9, 7:30P.M.

Tuesday, May 14 7:30P.M.

Glen Park Recreation Center Auditorium

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